

Over the past 40 years, Lake Highlands High School has maintained a commitment to academic, athletic and artistic excellence and community service. Lake Highlands High School has produced 17 National Merit Finalists in the last 2 years alone, along with district championships in nearly every athletic competition offered.

Since I was elected to Congress, I have visited Lake Highlands High School many times. Clearly, Lake Highlands High School is an institution dedicated to offering students a well-rounded education and an opportunity to become genuine leaders.

As the Congressman for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I am very proud to represent Lake Highlands High School, it's teachers and it's students. I would like to offer my congratulations to their administrators, alumni, coaches, students, and parents on this momentous occasion and best wishes for their continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable group of young athletes. The University of Illinois Fighting Illini Men's Basketball Team has had a memorable 2003–2004 season ending March 7 with the winning of their first outright Big Ten Conference title in 52 years.

Having won regular season Big Ten championships in 3 of the last 4 years, the pressure was on this young team and first year coach Bruce Weber to continue this championship success. After starting the Big Ten Conference season with a record of 3–3 and losing its first two road games, some began to doubt that this success would continue. However, credit must be given to Coach Weber and his staff and the unbelievable determination put forth by a team with only one senior, as the Illini concluded their season by winning ten straight conference games, of which six were on the road. I look forward to more Illini victories this weekend in the Big Ten Conference Tournament and later in the NCAA Basketball Championship Tournament and wish them continued success.

Coach Bruce Weber, his staff, and the entire University of Illinois men's basketball team are a great source of pride for their University, the Champaign-Urbana community and the 15th District of Illinois. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Weber and the entire 2003–04 Fighting Illini Men's Basketball team.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND B. WINGERD, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to Raymond B. Wingerd, who is retiring after 36 years of public service in the San Bernardino County Probation Department, helping those who have paid their debt to society return to a normal life.

Just months after his graduation from Up-land College, Raymond Wingerd joined the county probation department as a Probation Officer I, and with the exception of an 18-month stint as a teacher in Zimbabwe, has been with the department ever since.

Showing promise as a manager of others, Wingerd moved up to a supervising probation officer in 1972, and 5 years later to assistant director of the juvenile division, managing the intake, investigations and transportation sections. He was named a year later as Director of Special Services, overseeing the department's community resources, training, victim advocacy and work sentencing programs. One year after that he became director of the department's Verdmont Boys Ranch, a long-term program that focused on family counseling to help troubled youths turn their lives around.

In 1982, Wingerd was promoted to be the Division Director in charge of Juvenile Hall, three residential treatment institutions, clinical services and food services for 400 delinquent youth. By this time, he was managing 300 employees and handling an \$11.7 million budget. He became the Central Services Division Director in 1988, overseeing adult and juvenile court investigations and field supervision of 4,000 offenders.

Raymond Wingerd was named Chief Probation Officer for the county in 1994, overseeing a staff of 1,200 and a \$98 million annual budget, and has served in that position until his retirement. During his tenure, Chief Wingerd has led the planning and construction of new juvenile facilities in the county's West Valley and the High Desert—decentralizing and modernizing the department's approach to juvenile detention.

During his years in top management in the department, Chief Wingerd has helped create a series of youthful offender programs that have seen many innovative programs put in place in San Bernardino County. The department partners with county schools and the U.S. Forest Service to provide a 90-day intensive outdoor work program as an early intervention resource. The Youth Justice Center brings together schools, probation, public, and mental health and community-based organizations to provide a day-reporting program for youths on probation—a model used by the state legislature to create a statewide program. There are now 12 Youth Accountability Boards made up of citizens who help make dispositional decisions for first-time offenders.

The National Association of Counties gave national recognition to two projects created by Wingerd in the 1980s: A Regional Youth Education Facility with 40 beds, and a wilderness

diversion program designed to keep troubled youth out of the justice system.

Throughout his career, Chief Wingerd has been active in probation officer groups, serving as president of the Chief Probation Offices of California in 1998 and 1999, and most recently as a Probation Committee Member of the American Correctional Association. He is a board member of Everest College and San Bernardino Communities Against Drugs.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication of Chief Raymond Wingerd continues to this day, as he has agreed to continue his service as interim chief until a new head of the department can be recruited. Please join me in thanking him for his many years of public service and wishing he and his wife Linda well in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF K&A CRYLICS INC.

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of K&A Crylics Inc. The company will honor its customers, vendors and employees at a March 18 luncheon when it will also donate \$25,000 to five community organizations in Wartrace, Tennessee.

Brothers Kevin and Allen Wright founded K&A in their hometown of Wartrace in 1980. The company, a leading national supplier of acrylic and plastic store fixtures and displays, has grown from a two-man operation working out of an old store front to a larger, modern facility with 65 employees.

In addition to being a major employer in Wartrace, K&A improves the lives of those in the community in many ways. At the luncheon, for example, K&A will donate \$5,000 to each of the following organizations: Cascade schools, the Wartrace Volunteer Fire Department, the Wartrace Chamber of Commerce, the Wartrace Parks and Recreation Department and the town of Wartrace. The funds will be used for education, fire equipment upgrades, permanent historical building markers, upgrades to the Wartrace gym and renovation of the historic Wartrace rock jail.

I congratulate K&A for reaching this milestone. The company should be proud of its service to both its national customer base and the local community. May K&A's next 25 years be as prosperous and successful as its first 25 years.

REPUBLICANS HAVE FOCUSED ON RESULTS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since I was elected to Congress, I have heard endless rhetoric from those on the other side of the aisle about the economy, tax cuts and the deficit. Unfortunately, when the political fog clears, it appears that our Democratic friends are more concerned with rhetoric than they are with results.